Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 16 Dec 2020 until 23:59 on Thursday 17 Dec 2020

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 15 Dec 2020 at 13:50

Confidence: High for the run of unsettled weather with bands of rain interspersed with showers crossing from the west, however confidence lowering through the forecast in the timings and intensity of the worst of the conditions.

Headline for Wednesday 16 Dec 2020: Feeling bitter in severe gale to storm force summit winds. Dull with periods of rain for much of Wednesday. Clearing to showers into the evening.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 16 Dec 2020

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy Snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
Low Likelihood

Gales
Medium Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Low Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Cloudy	Light rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Heavy rain showers (night)
Precipitation probability							
<05%	20%	70%	90%	90%	80%	60%	40%

Forecast for Wednesday 16 Dec 2020

Weather: Dry at first overnight, cloud thickening from the south to bring rain before dawn. Overcast through the bulk of the day with periods of rain which turns heavy at times, particularly across southern facing routes, also some sleet and wet snow across highest summits. Rain clearing erratically from the west during the late afternoon and early evening, with outbreaks heaviest and most frequent across western ranges, bringing a chance of hail and thunder.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Through the bulk of the day 10% or less with bases quite extensive from 500-650m, becoming during the evening 25% in west and 60% in east as the showery flow spreads in.

Visibility: Mainly moderate or poor by day, becoming generally good from evening, but continuing to lower to a handful of kilometres in later showers.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Wednesday 16 Dec 2020

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	32/40 SE	44/55 SE	50/63 SE	52/67 S	44/57 S	30/42 S	30/42 S	31/43 SW	30/41 SW
600	30/42 SE	34/47 SE	37/51 SE	41/57 S	35/49 S	28/41 S	27/40 S	28/41 SW	25/38 SW
300	9/28 SE	15/39 SE	17/47 SE	18/48 S	16/41 S	14/34 S	14/33 S	13/32 S	12/31 SW
Valley	9/24 SE	13/32 SE	15/38 SE	17/43 S	17/37 S	15/30 S	15/30 S	14/29 S	13/28 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	2/-5	2/-7	2/-7	3/-6	3/-5	3/-4	2/-6	2/-6	2/-5
600	3/-4	3/-4	4/-3	4/-3	4/-2	4/-2	4/-3	4/-3	4/-2
300	4/1	5/1	6/2	6/2	6/2	6/2	6/2	6/2	6/2
Valley	6/3	7/4	8/5	9/5	9/5	9/5	8/5	8/5	8/5
Freezing Level*	1000m	1200m	1400m	1500m	1500m	1300m	1100m	1100m	1200m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Potentially dangerous conditions by day with extensive hill fog combining with driving rain and, across highest summits, gale to severe gale winds which bring a severe wind chill.

Forecast for Thursday 17 Dec 2020

Weather: Sunshine and showers by day with the bulk of the outbreaks mainly appearing through the morning, with again these wintry at times over highest summits. Cloud thickening and lowering from the west from late afternoon, with an area of rain extending across all during the evening, with further heavy outbreaks and extensive hill fog.

Maximum wind: South to southwest mean 35mph with gusts reaching 45-50mph across most exposed ridges and summits.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 60% during the morning with bases lowering 450-600m as showers push through, becoming 80% for the afternoon.

Visibility: Generally good lowering moderate or poor in showers, then more generally in evening rain.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 3 Celsius increasing 10 Celsius during the afternoon
At 800m: Plus 2-4 Celsius
Freezing level: At or just above highest summits

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 15 December. Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:45. The good news (for those who dislike the snow) is that the fells are, basically, free from snow and ice. The bad news (for those who love winter conditions) is that the fells are, basically, free from snow and ice! Even the east facing headwall of Helvellyn (which generally holds snow the longest) only has some isolated patches at virtually summit level. No snow was encountered lying on any paths. However, given all the recent rain (with more forecasted on Wednesday) paths are very wet and rocks slippery. With the summit temperature around midday of only plus one degree centigrade it would only take a marginal drop in temperature for ice to form and the precipitation to fall as snow. Indeed, early risers encountered descending as the Fell Top Assessor was ascending reported some wet summit snow. This had all thawed by the time I was there. People were walking up today wearing everything that they had and, therefore, had nothing extra to cope with the minus 7 degrees summit windchill (or to keep warm if anything had gone wrong). Thus, full winter clothing (waterproofs, warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment – including map and compass and ability to use them in limited visibility - are all essential for anyone venturing out onto the fells. Temperature: plus 1.0 C, Maximum wind speed 28.1 mph, Wind chill: minus 7.2 C, Average wind speed: 22.2 mph

Issued at: 1350 on Tue 15 Dec 2020

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